

STATE OF ALASKA

William A. Egan, Governor



Annual Progress Reports for

INVENTORY AND CATALOGING

*INVESTIGATIONS OF PUBLIC FISHING ACCESS
AND AQUATIC HABITAT REQUIREMENTS*

*DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION
COLLECTED ON DOLLY VARDEN*

by

*F. Van Hulle, J. B. Murray, C. J. Kalb
D. L. Siedelman, P. B. Cunningham
T. W. Trent, F. A. Stefanich, D. L. Bill
R. H. Armstrong*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

James W. Brooks, Commissioner

DIVISION OF SPORT FISH

*Rupert E. Andrews, Director
Howard E. Metsker, Coordinator*

RESEARCH PROJECT SEGMENT

State: Alaska

Project No.: F-9-5

Name: Sport Fish Investigations of Alaska

Study No.: A-1

Study Title: Investigations of Public Fishing
Access and Aquatic Habitat
Requirements

Period Covered: July 1, 1972 to June 30, 1973

ABSTRACT

Reserved Use Classifications on State lands for public access were obtained on 43 waters out of a total of 66 that were requested. Public access was provided on 41 streams and 59 lakes by other Division of Lands classifications. A total of 14 rights-of-way permits for public access trails were obtained out of 44 requested. Access was obtained on two lakes by Interagency Land Management Transfers.

Inventory and harvest reports on the fish resources in the 80,000,000 acres of land withdrawn by the Secretary of the Interior for National Parks, Forests, Wildlife Refuges and Wild & Scenic River systems were submitted to the Resource Planning Team of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough retained land on four lakes for public access.

A listing was compiled of access trails containing trail name, number, highway location, map location, length, type and rights-of-way status.

The trails and waters cataloging system now contains entries on 251 trails, 22,900 lakes and approximately 5,000 streams.

State timber sales and highway projects were reviewed for possible access improvement and recommendations made to prevent damage to fish habitat.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Continue the project of investigating Alaska's public fishing access requirements.
2. Continue the electronic data processing of water, land, and limnological information.
3. Continue to assist and advise borough and other local governments concerning public access and water use requirement.
4. Initiate a program with other state agencies and local governments to provide for development and maintenance of access sites.

5. Continue public access investigations within Bureau of Land Management areas proposed for disposal.
6. Continue to assist, provide information, and submit reports and recommendations on fishery resources and access requirements to the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.
7. Budget for stream and lake access acquisition from private land owners.

OBJECTIVES

1. To initiate recommendations to land controlling agencies and individuals for recreational use classifications to provide public access as required.
2. To assist in land purchase negotiations, withdrawal actions, and land classifications as required.
3. To provide land status surveys, reports, and reviews for specific, potential recreational use lands.
4. To maintain an up-to-date data process listing of all waters of the State.

TECHNIQUES USED

Information concerning biological and limnological characteristics of waters studies was obtained from survey forms and file cards maintained by the Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish. Fishery information was also obtained while working with Sport Fish staff biologists using standard biological field survey methods.

Land status information on lands adjacent to lakes and streams was obtained from Borough offices in Anchorage, Soldotna, Fairbanks, Kodiak and Palmer, the State Division of Lands office in Anchorage and Fairbanks, and the Bureau of Land Management office in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Land records were inspected periodically to determine changes in land status. Land ownership information was also obtained from private mapping companies.

The location and surface areas of lakes located within inventory areas were obtained from U.S.G.S. 1:63,360 scale maps. Lake acreages of surveyed lands were obtained from the lake survey forms at Division of Sport Fish field offices. The grid method was used to determine the acreage of the unsurveyed lakes.

Oblique and vertical aerial photographs were used to locate survey lines, monuments, and other ground control points. The photographs were useful in determining terrain and vegetation characteristics prior to recommending particular access points.

Transposing land ownership boundaries onto aerial photographs was continued. This procedure enabled staff biologists to accurately identify access points for inquiring anglers. Photographic coverage was obtained from Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, State Division of Lands, petroleum companies,

and other private firms.

The use of electronic data processing for the storing, manipulating, and reporting of water data and shoreline land status was continued during the period. Source documents were prepared in the Access office and the cards punched and data stored on tape at the State Electronic Data Processing center in Anchorage.

Recommendations for purchase, withdrawal, or classification of lands for access sites or rights-of-way were made on the basis of present and anticipated future public access requirements.

Reviews and recommendations were submitted to the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission concerning access sites and rights-of-way in key areas involving the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Field investigations and review of Sport Fish files were initiated concerning waters along the Alaska Highway.

The water body data file was updated. In conjunction with these files, the 1:63,360 township map files were reviewed and updated with water body number, land classification orders and location of land status maps. Additional pertinent information was recorded in both filing systems.

FINDINGS

Federal Lands

Most of the Federal lands have been withdrawn for various purposes. There are approximately 11,000,000 acres of land in scattered patches in the central and western part of the state that are open for appropriation under the Federal land laws. Under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, a Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission was authorized. The Commission's purpose is to institute land use planning, to identify existing resources and the best possible use of the areas under study. Under Section 17(d) (2) of the ANCSA, the Secretary of the Interior was authorized to withdraw from all forms of appropriation up to but not to exceed eighty million acres for addition to the National Park, Forest, Wildlife Refuge and Wild & Scenic Rivers System. These lands are scattered throughout the state containing 39 tracts of varying acreages.

The "d2" areas were combined into 19 units for resource inventory purposes and specialists of each discipline submitted a narrative of the resources within the unit. The Access Project submitted an inventory of the known species of fish present, numbers of each species harvested, known locations of spawning grounds and location of research sites. This task was difficult because the boundaries of the "d2" areas did not correspond with any of the drainage basins or state fishery management districts. The reports were submitted to the various field biologists for review before submission to the Resource Planning Team. (These reports required approximately thirty working days.)

An unsuccessful attempt was made to have a homestead patent on Pasagshak River include a right-of-way for public fishing.

Recommendations for access sites were made to the Bureau of Land Management on Saltery and Miam lakes in the Kodiak area and a research site on Tugidak Island, south of Kodiak Island. Results are still pending. A special Land Use Permit was applied for and is pending on the inlets and the outlet of Barbara Lake on Kodiak Island.

A Recreation and Public Purpose application was submitted for an access site on Pinochle Lake in the Matanuska River Valley and a Special Land Use Permit on Tanada Lake in the Glennallen area was requested.

Recommendations were made to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Chena River Flood Control Project.

State Lands

Thirty-seven Land Classification Orders issued by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Lands, during the report period were reviewed by the Access Project. Twenty-five of the 37 orders provide public access to 41 streams and 59 lakes in addition to numerous smaller unnamed lakes and streams (Table 1).

Requests were submitted to the Division of Lands for Reserved Use classifications on 66 lakes and streams. Reserved Use classifications were obtained on 43 of these waters. Action on the remaining 23 Reserve Use applications are pending (Table 2).

Application for rights-of-way along portions of the Chatanika River and Washington Creek were submitted and are pending. A right-of-way along Gate Creek was obtained on 11/21/72.

Several Special Land Use Permits were requested and received for research sites utilized by the Department on the Goodpaster, Salcha and Talachulitna rivers.

Rights-of-way for 44 trails on the highway system were applied for during the report period. Right-of-way permits were received for 8 of 36 on the Steese Highway, 3 of 5 on the Alaska Highway and 3 of 3 on the Richardson Highway. The Alaska Division of Lands is presently holding the remainder for use by District Land Managers for land use planning.

Two Interagency Land Management Transfers from the Division of Lands to the Department of Fish and Game were obtained to provide land control for public access and use. I.L.M.T. 24404, issued 8/29/72, provides a parcel of land of approximately nine acres on Birch Lake (Fairbanks area). I.L.M.T. 60217, issued 4/24/73, provides 10 acres of land at the outlet of Packers Lake, on Kalgin Island.

Table 1. State Division of Lands' Classifications Providing Public Access, 1972

<u>Classification Order Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Classification*</u>	<u>Waters Involved</u>
715-4	01/21/72	Resource Mgmt.	Unnamed streams
580-6	01/21/72	Resource Mgmt.	Little Salcha River, Flat Creek, Salcha River & tributaries
795	01/14/72	Resource Mgmt.	Isabella Creek, unnamed lake
597-6	01/21/72	Resource Mgmt.	Chatanika River, Our Creek, Hasting Creek, Sargent Creek
77-4	02/23/72	Reserved Use	Diamond Creek
805	03/07/72	Resource Mgmt.	Olds River, several unnamed streams
808	03/08/72	Resource Mgmt.	Jackson Lake, unnamed Lake #7389
577-15	04/27/72	Resource Mgmt.	Hock Lake
16-3	05/02/72	Public Rec.	Beaver Creek
577-14	05/02/72	Reserved Use	Unnamed lake outlet and tributaries to 9-mile Creek
576-12	05/23/72	Resource Mgmt.	Falls Creek, Kachemak Bay, Halibut Cove
576-13	05/23/72	Resource Mgmt.	Deep Creek and tri- butaries, unnamed lake
813	05/08/72	Resource Mgmt.	Chickaloon Bay, unnamed streams
667-3	05/23/72	Resource Mgmt.	Bear Cove, Kachemak Bay, Large unnamed lake

<u>Classification</u> <u>Order Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Classification*</u>	<u>Waters Involved</u>
814	05/23/72	Reserved Use	Big Lake
815	06/23/72	Reserved Use	Matanuska River
815	06/23/72	Reserved Use	Moose Creek, Buffalo Creek
815	06/23/72	Resource Mgmt.	Matanuska River, Obrien Creek, Monument Creek, Kings River, Chickaloon River, Boulder Creek, Rush Lake, Big Sawmill Lake, Boulder Lake, Sawmill Creek, Little Sawmill Lake, Ravine Lake, Bonnie Lake and Inlet, Purinton Creek, Meadow Creek, Conglomerate Creek, Simpson Lake, Buck Lake, Muddy Creek, Cascade Creek, Mudflow Creek, Kutzkatana Creek, Packsaddle Creek, Index Lake, Hicks Creek, Winding Creek, Lake Creek, and numerous unnamed lakes & streams
818	06/23/72	Reserved Use Resource Mgmt. Public Rec. Resource Mgmt. Reserved Use	Trapper Lake Trapper Lake Amber Lake Amber Lake Amber Lake
577-16	06/29/72	Reserved Use	Papa Bear Lake, Mama Bear Lake, & Willie Lake
572-5	07/19/72	Resource Mgmt.	Dry Creek
577-17	08/10/72	Resource Mgmt.	Chunila Creek
572-6	09/13/72	Resource Mgmt.	Eightmile Lake, several unnamed lakes
577-19	09/22/72	Resource Mgmt.	Unnamed Lake #6931

577-20	09/27/72	Reserved Use	Kitty Lake, Trail Lake, Sucker Lake, Long Lake, & 15 unnamed lakes
581-12	11/16/72	Resource Mgmt.	Tanana River, Volkmar River, Healy Lake, Twelvemile Lake, Black Lake, Gerstle River, numerous unnamed lakes and streams, % Healy R.
588-6	11/06/72	Resource Mgmt.	Healy Lake, Tanana River
828	11/16/72	Resource Mgmt.	Chena River & several unnamed lakes & streams
577-21	11/10/72	Reserved Use	Fox Creek, Alexander Lake, Tea Lake, Top Lake, & 15 unnamed Lakes

* Refer to "Discussion" Section for definitions.

Table 2. Reserved Use Classification Requests Pending Division of Lands' Action.

<u>Water Body</u>	<u>ADF&G #</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
Chunilna Lake	3902	27N., 4W., S.M.	06/08/72
Sandy River	0113	46S., 70W., S.M.	09/06/72
Tukallah Lake	6268	12N., 10W., S.M.	01/22/73
Chuitbuna Lake	1748	12N., 11W., S.M.	01/22/73
Lynx Lake	7058	22N., 10W., S.M.	01/23/73
Unnamed Lake	7061	22N., 10W., S.M.	01/25/73
Unnamed Lake	7164	23N., 13W., S.M.	01/29/73
Unnamed Lake	7229	24N., 13W., S.M.	01/29/73
Unnamed Lake	7088	22N., 13W., S.M.	01/29/73
Unnamed Lake	7159	23N., 13W., S.M.	01/29/73
Unnamed Lake	7176	23N., 14W., S.M.	01/29/73
Unnamed Lake	7177	23N., 14W., S.M.	01/29/73
Unnamed Lake	7093	22N., 14W., S.M.	01/29/73
Unnamed Lake	7095	22N., 14W., S.M.	01/29/73
Unnamed Lake	7151	23N., 10W., S.M.	01/29/73
Unnamed Lake	7217	24N., 10W., S.M.	01/29/73
Unnamed Lake	7219	24N., 10W., S.M.	01/29/73
Unnamed Lake	7044	22N., 9W., S.M.	01/29/73
Unnamed Lake	7230	24N., 13W., S.M.	01/29/73
Unnamed Lake	7055	22N., 9W., S.M.	01/29/73
Unnamed Lake	7050	22N., 9W., S.M.	01/29/73
Canyon Lake	1069	21N., 13W., S.M.	01/29/73
Clearwater Creek	1348	24N., 13W., S.M.	01/29/73

Highway plans were reviewed on 43 different projects and recommendations were made on access to the various associated fishing waters.

Recommendations for access were made to the Division of Parks on the Chena River Recreation Area near Fairbanks.

Clearinghouse activities associated with recreational areas of all types using Federal Aid funds included review of 22 projects.

Recommendations concerning additions and deletions to navigable waters in Alaska were and are continuing to be reported to the Department of Natural Resources. Maps are being circulated for review to regional and area biologists. Streams and Lakes which have been used for hunting, fishing, trapping, float-plane landing, or as a travel corridor are suggested for addition. These waters are concentrated in the village withdrawal and village and regional deficiency areas.

An interagency agreement involving land use planning between the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Game has been submitted to the respective Commissioners for approval and signature. This agreement will allow input by the Fish and Game Department in the early planning stages.

An informal Division of Lands policy allows acreage on lakes and streams to be retained for public use. Discussions and recommendations to the Division of Parks concerning high public use areas continues.

Borough Lands

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough retained land for public access on X, Y, Tigger and Trouble lakes.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough requested from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game a tract of land on Fish Creek to develop a campground. The land was originally obtained by a Interagency Land Management Transfer from the Alaska Division of Lands. The transfer of land upstream from the highway was approved by the Department.

Recommendations were made to the Greater Anchorage Area Borough on open space lands adjacent to Campbell Creek for public access and development of access to Sand Lake.

Private Lands

A 20-foot right-of-way was granted by a private landowner to the Department of Fish & Game on 8/8/72 which provides access to Rouge Lakes, near Kenai.

Attempts were made to obtain access at the outlet of Iliamna Lake.

Access to Sports Lake, located near Soldotna, is still in the negotiation stage with help from the Attorney General's office. Attempts are being made with the Peninsula Sportsman Association to arrange public access if litter is controlled. Legal action against the club may be taken, if necessary, as the Recreation and Public Purposes patent states that the Territory or subsequent state would have a right-of-way across the land.

Negotiations with private landowners continue concerning access to Echo, Twelvemile and Upper Bonnie lakes.

Baumhoff, Collie and Klotz, a private consulting organization, requested the Access Project to assist in gathering and supplying information for input into a recreational land use plan on the Chena River Recreation Area. Recommendations for public access was submitted.

Habitat

Public access requirements and habitat protection were reviewed and field investigation conducted on development projects. These consisted of highway projects, gravel removal, water use, mining activity, timber sales, Corps of Engineers projects, Division of Aviation projects, and local government projects.

On Department of Highways' projects, stipulations for culverts, bridges and encroachment on stream beds were reviewed. Opportunities for access to streams and lakes were requested involving approaches, pull-outs and parking areas.

Timber sales on State lands were reviewed and recommendations were made on location of roads, types of and location of stream crossings and logging practices that would be least detrimental to the fish habitat.

Data Processing

Lake data in a variety of formats were obtained from lake information cards cataloged and key punched in previous report periods. No additional lakes were cataloged.

Data were obtained from the Anadromous Fish Catalog and combined with the numbering system utilized by the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This program will provide for cross-referencing of biological and harvest information obtained by the Commercial Fish and Sport Fish Divisions of the Department of Fish and Game, chemical and pollution data of the Federal and State environmental protection agencies, water use for domestic and industrial purposes as recorded by the Department of Natural Resources and public recreational use data obtained

by the Access Project. The cross-referenced indexing of Alaska streams by the Environmental Protection Agency STORET and Department of Fish and Game statistical numbering systems is the most complete of any agencies within the State.

A listing was compiled of access trails containing trail name, numbering system indicating highway location, U.S.G.S. quadrangle map, Meridian, Township, **range, length, condition, type of trail, information on maintenance, status of right-of-way** and availability of additional information. The listing was utilized by the Department of Highways in a program of obtaining easements for such trails, the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company in locating crossings and by other private groups doing research for handbooks on recreation and hiking in Alaska.

The Data Processing Cataloging System initiated and carried out by the Access Project to date contains entries on 251 trails, 22,900 lakes, and approximately 5,000 streams.

Discussion

The Access Project Leader's position in Anchorage was vacated on July 1, 1972 and subsequently filled on August 16. The Regional Access Biologist's position was transferred from Anchorage to Fairbanks on August 16, vacated on September 30, and subsequently filled on February 14, 1973.

A great deal of time was spent obtaining information for the Resource Planning Team of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission. The information requested was the fisheries resources on lands set aside by the Secretary of the Interior for parks, game refuges and other public uses. The 80 million acres of withdrawn lands are scattered throughout the state and are of various acreages and shapes.

It was strongly pointed out to the Resource Planning Team members the importance of public access to waters enclosed by the land selection. Perhaps as importance of public access to waters enclosed by the land selection. Perhaps as importantly, the utilization of other resources was thoroughly examined to determine the effects if any on the changes of water quality. The value of the renewable fisheries resource was emphasized at every opportunity. To assure continued public access and to maintain high quality water within the 80 million acres of land is extremely important to the State. This is worthwhile considering the long-term values to the management of the fisheries.

The 39 tracts of land were subgrouped into 19 areas for reporting purposes due to the similarity and proximity of certain tracts. Separate fisheries inventories for each area were submitted to the Resource Planning Team. Using resource inventory reports of the various disciplines, three committees were formed from members of the Resource Planning Team to make recommendations to the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for their perusal.

The following classifications by the Department of Natural Resources provide for public access:

1. Public recreation lands "means those lands which, because of location, physical features or adjacent development, may best be utilized by the public for, but not limited to, natural and developed recreational and historical areas."
2. Reserved use lands are defined as "those lands which have been transferred, assigned or designated for present or future public use, or for use by a governmental or quasi-governmental agency, or for future development of new townsites, or for future expansion of existing townsites."
3. Resource management lands "means those lands containing an association of surface and/or subsurface resources which are especially suited to multiple-use management. Such management may be accomplished in whole or in part pursuant to an Inter-agency Agreement."

There is concern about one regulation which states, "Reclassification. Nothing contained herein shall prevent the reclassification of lands in best interests of the state."

The land rush on the Open-to-Entry lands on the west side of the Susitna River continues especially on lakes and streams. The Access Project make applications for five acre Reserved Use sites on practically all of the lakes and a few critical areas on streams. Most of the applications were granted.

The project members attend various meetings of Borough Councils, sportsmen clubs and conservation organizations. Public hearings concerning various development and land use projects were attended to assure that public access would be provided or retained for recreational waters.

The Access Project land status filing system continues to be a valuable aid for not only the access section but also for the four divisions. These contain a wealth of information especially on land ownership and are constantly being updated.

LITERATURE CITED

- Alaska Administrative Code. 1973. Land Planning and Classification.
Department of Natural Resources. Register 46. Part 6. Lands,
Chapter 52, Juneau: 160-164
- Bergstrand, Jay L. 1971. Investigations of Alaska's Public Fishing Access Requirements. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Federal Aid in Fish Restoration, Annual Report of Progress, 1970-1971, Project F-9-3, 12: 149-159.

_____. 1972. Investigations of Public Fishing Access and Aquatic Habitat Requirements. Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Federal Aid in Fish Restoration, Annual Report of Progress, 1971-1972. Project F-9-4, 13: 199-213.

U.S. Government. 1972. Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Conference Report. House of Representatives, 92nd Congress, 1st Session. Report No. 92-746, Washington, D. C. 48p.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

s/Frank A. Stefanich
Access Project Leader

s/Howard E. Metsker
D - J Coordinator

s/Donald L. Bill, Jr.
Access Biologist

s/Rupert E. Andrews, Director
Division of Sport Fish



COPPER RIVER SALMON DIP NET FISHERY (*photos by Fred Williams*)

